the facts ABOUT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

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THE BACKGROUND

I — STATEMENTS BY ZIONISTS

Aggression. In 1955, Menachim Begin, leader of the Herut Party, said : « I deeply believe in launching a preventive war against the Arab States without further hesitation. By doing so, we will achieve two targets: firstly, the annihilation of Arab power, and secondly, the expansion of our territory. »

(From a statement made in the Knesset on 12 October 1955).

In 1952, Mr. Ben Gurion said : «I will form the Cabinet on one condition and that is, to utilize all possible means to expand towards the south.»

(From a speech at a Mapai Party meeting in Beersheba, 1952).

Editor's note :

This is not a magazine, nor even a newsletter. No attempt will be made at long-winded analysis or description. It is literally a «factual» sheet.

FACTS will try to present the facts of the Palestine Problem. We think these will speak for themselves and need no comment or elaboration. It is this ignorance of the facts by the outside world that has been responsible for much of the human suffering that has taken place in Palestine. It is time that the facts were known. Only on their basis can disinterested and fair-minded people reach objective and intelligent conclusions. To help such people is our objective.

FACTS is produced by the Arab Women's Information Committee, a voluntary, non-professional, non-profit and private organization of Arab women living in Beirut, Lebanon, who have been appalled at the manner in which the Palestine Problem has so far been presented in the English-speaking press.

FACTS will be divided into two sections, the first dealing with background material, the second with current developments. It will appear on a monthly basis. We also hope to be able to publish supplements on specific issues as the occasion arises.

The background section will comprise quotations from Zionist writings to illustrate Zionist ideological and strategic thought, statistics pertaining to various aspects of the Palestine Problem, and summaries of the more important historical events and developments of the problem.

The selection of this material is necessarily arbitrary, but it is hoped that as much ground can be covered in successive issues of **FACTS** as space permits.

As to the section on current developments, it will focus attention on the developments that have taken place since 5 June 1967.

We shall endeavour throughout to give detailed references for all the material that we publish. We hope that our efforts will contribute, however modestly, to a better understanding of the Arab point of view on the Palestine Problem.

FACTS welcomes all comments, suggestions and inquiries by its readers.

II — STATISTICS

The total U.S. aid received by Israel between 1945 and 1965 amounted to $ 1044 million. During the same period Egypt received $ 1084 million from the U.S. But per capita aid to Israel was $ 407, while per capita aid to Egypt was only $ 36.
These figures do not include military aid of which Israel has always been the greatest beneficiary.

(Foreign Affairs, *July 1967*).

In 1952, 1953 and 1957, the percentage of Jews who left Israel was quite high. In 1953 alone, more Jews left Israel than came in : 13,000 emigrants against 11,326 immigrants.

(*Moshe Menuhin*, The Decadence of Judaism in Our Time, *p. 237*).

III — OTHER STATEMENTS

THE CONCEPT OF ZIONISM

In 1958, Professor Fred Winnett said about Zionism : «The material achievements of Zionism have tended to blind the eyes of many in the West to its real character, just as the material achievements of Nazism and Fascism blinded many to the evil inherent in those creeds. The destructive character of Zionism arise from the fact that, like the rabid nationalisms already mentioned, it is determined to do something for its adherents, no matter what the cost to other people. For countries of the Western world to link their Middle East policies in any way with support of such an 'ism' is to court disaster».

(*From an article by Professor Fred V. Winnett entitled «Why the West should stop supporting Israel,» published in* Mc Gill Magazine (*Montreal . . Canada*), *18 January 1958*).

In 1959, James Warburg, a well-known American writer and banker, said : «It is one thing to create a much-needed refuge for the persecuted and oppressed. It is quite another thing to create a new chauvinistic nationalism and a state based in part upon medieval theocratic bigotry and in part upon the Nazi-exploited myth of the existence of a Jewish race.»

(*From a speech delivered at Mishkhan Israel Synagogue. New Haven, Connecticut, on 27 November 1959*)

ISRAEL TREATMENT OF ARABS

In a lecture at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, Professeur Arnold Toynbee told his Jewish audience : «The Jewish treatment of the Arabs in 1947 was as morally indefensible as the slaughter by the Nazis of 6.000.000 Jews... The most tragic thing in human life is when people who have suffered impose suffering in their turn... the massacres of Arab civilians by the Israeli armed forces were carried out cold-bloodedly and with a purpose.» It is impossible, he said, «to be more than 100% wicked. A murder is a murder. If I murder one man, that makes me a murderer. I don't have to reach 6.000.000 or even 1.000 ».

(New York Times, *1 February 1961*).

«As is well known, a very large proportion of the supposedly voluntary philanthropic donations are extracted from business and professional men by threats of punitive economic and social sanctions. This must be described as what it is : a species of terrorism. Such terrorism has become a most effective technique in large-scale Jewish fund-raising..»

(*Moshe Menuhin,* The Decadence of Judaism in Our Time, *p. 367*).

JEWISH REACTIONS

In 1919 Congressman Kahn and thirty prominent American Jews protested to President Wilson

«We raise our voices in warning and protest against the demand of the Zionists for the reorganisation of the Jews as a national unit to whom, now or in future, territorial sovereignty in Palestine shall be committed. The demand not only misinterprets the trend of the history of the Jews, who ceased to be a nation 2000 years ago, but involves the limitation and possible annulment of the larger claims of Jews for full citizenship and human rights in all lands in which those are not yet secure.»

(New York Times, *5 March 1919*).

In 1948, the editor of the *New York Times,* C.L. Sulzberger, had this to say about the Jewish D.P.'s in Europe «Why in God's name should the fate of all these unhappy people be subordinated to the single cry of statehood. I cannot rid myself of the feeling that the unfortunate Jews of Europe's D.P. camps are helpless hostages for whom statehood has been the only ransom.»

(*Alfred Lilienthall,* What Price Israel ? *p. 26*).

In 1955, the Ihud party in Israel stated :

«In the end we must come out publicly with the truth; that we have no moral right whatsoever to oppose the return of the Arab refugees to their land... that until we have begun to redeem our sin against the Arab refugees, we have no right to continue the «Ingathering of the Exiles.» We have no right to demand that American Jews leave their country to which they have become attached, and settle in a land that has been stolen from others, while the owners of it are homeless and miserable.»

(Ner Magazine, *December 1955*).

On 16 September 1948, in his report to the General Assembly, Count F. Bernadotte, the U.N. Mediator in Palestine, said about the Arab refugees : «It would be an offence against the principles of elemental justice if these victims of the conflict were denied the right to return to their homes, while Jewish immigrants flow into Palestine, and indeed, at least offer the threat of permanent replacement of the Arab refugees who have been rooted in the land for centuries.»

(*Count F. Bernadotte,* U.N. Document *Supp. No. 11, A 1948*).

In 1958, Rabbi R. Benjamin of Israel said «We had no right to build a settlement and to realize the ideal of Zionism with other people's property. To do this is robbery.»

(*Rabbi R. Benjamin,* Jewish Newsletter, *1 December 1958*).

General Carl Von Horn, Chief-of-Staff of UNTSO, (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization) in Palestine between 1960 and 1963, describes the pressure he was subjected to by the Israeli delegate at the U.N., Michael Comay :

«I would be wise to listen to his advice,» he said «otherwise my life was bound to become a great deal more unconfortable.»

On his return to Jerusalem, Von Horn received an anonymous letter : «which advised me to leave at the earliest possible moment. Were I not gone by the 20th May, the only way I was likely to leave was in a coffin.»

(*Carl Von Horn*, Soldiering For Peace, *p. 262-279*).

General Carl Von Horn also says «It was Israeli policy to maintain a situation 'pregnant' with threats of Arab attacks. It seemed to all of us in UNTSO that there were two reasons why this suited them. First, it ensured a high state of readiness and efficiency within their own Army, which showed a marked tendency towards internal disputes immediately after tension relaxed. Secondly, it enabled them to make sure that their 'plight' received the maximum amount of attention in foreign and particularly American newspapers, with the natural corollary that sympathy, aid and money continued to flow into Israel in substantial quantities.»

(*Carl Von Horn*, Soldiering for Peace *p. 96*).

In 1947, Jewish leaders in the U.S. put so much pressure on President Truman that he found it intolerable : «Top Jewish leaders in the U.S. were putting pressure on me... The White House was subjected to a constant barrage, I do not think I ever had as much pressure and propaganda aimed at the White House as I had in this instance. The persistance of a few of the extreme Zionist leaders, actuated by political motives and engaging in political threats disturbed and amazed me. Some were even suggesting that we pressure sovereign nations into favorable votes in the General Assembly.»

(*Harry Truman*, Years of Trial and Hope, *p. 158*).

IV — HISTORICAL EVENTS

(7) Between 1942-1944, the U.S. Government suppressed reports concerning the massacre of Jews in countries occupied by the Nazis. President Roosevelt himself refused to speak out against these murders or to increase the immigration quota (for 850 available visas, 10,000 applications were received). A poll in *Fortune* Magazine showed that even among American Jews themselves, 30% were opposed to increased Jewish immigration into the U.S.

(*Review of a book called «The Bystanders» by A.D. Morse, in* Newsweek *Magazine, p. 55, 12 February 1968 & the* Observer *31 March 1968*).

(8) Although the U.S. Government refused to give the 110,000 Jews entry visas into the U.S., President Truman, Roosevelt's successor was generous enough to issue an urgent appeal in September 1945 for the admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine, a country already racked by strife.(*Arthur Koesler*, Promise and Fulfiment, *p. 111*).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

EXPANSIONISM...

In a recent interview with Eric **Rouleau,** published in the French newspaper, **Le Monde,** General Itzhak Rabin, Chief-of-Staff of the Israeli Army, admitted that President Nasser did not aim, in June 1967, to provoke a war with Israel. General Rabin also admitted the superiority of the Israeli forces over the Arab forces. Why Israel chose to start hostilities in June is a question that remained unanswered.

(LE MONDE, 29 February 1968)

Even before the guns had stopped firing **on the Syrian front in June 1967,** the Israeli Minister of Information, Yisrael Gallili, declared : « We no longer recognize the 1949 boundaries. »

(L'ORIENT, 11 June 1967, UPI)

A few days later, Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of Israel, reaffirmed this position : « There is no question of leaving the occupied territories. »

(L'ORIENT, 18 June 1967, UPI)

Menachim Begin, Minister of State and former leader of the Irgun terrorist group, also said : « Our departure from the occupied zones is now out of the question ».

(L'ORIENT, 18 June 1967)

General Itzhak Rabin, Chief-of-Staff of the Israeli Army, declared : « The natural frontiers of Israel are the Golan Heights, the Jordan River and the Suez Canal ».

(L'ORIENT, 23 September 1967, AFP)

General Itzhak Rabin, Chief-of-Staff of the Israeli Army also declared : «Israel would commit a historical mistake if it were to withdraw from the occupied territories ».

(AL-NAHAR, 10 December 1967)

« There was a great hullabaloo within the government about the future of the occupied territories. One pressure group within the cabinet, including members of Achdut Haavoda and Gahal, (two Israeli parties) were urging a long-term decision to keep all parts of the « promised land ».

(ECONOMIST, 6 January 1968)

LIES

Peter Nicholls, the Times correspondent in Israel, says that in June 1967, the inhabitants of the West Bank were urged to leave by the retreating Jordanians.

(The Times, 14 March 1968).

But

A report from Reuter on 11 June 1967, said the Jordan Government, through Radio Amman, was «urging the residents of the West Bank to stay put.»

(L'Orient, 12 June 1967)

And :

Minister Moshe Dayan declared that «the road is still open for Jordanians who wished to quit Israel's new territory» and Israeli troops prevented Arab from travelling back even to join relatives on the West Bank.

(Newsweek, 3 July 1967).

How others see the situation

Dr. Weiss-Rosmarin, editor of the Jewish Spectator, *says: «If the Zionist Movement and Jews in general had been more humble in their encounter with Moslem civilization and if they had not come to Palestine waving the flag of «western civilization,» Israel might well have benefited from Arab tolerance and humaneness.» She adds that : «Israel must integrate itself into the Arab World if it is to survive.»*

(New York Times, *3 September 1967*).

STATISTICS

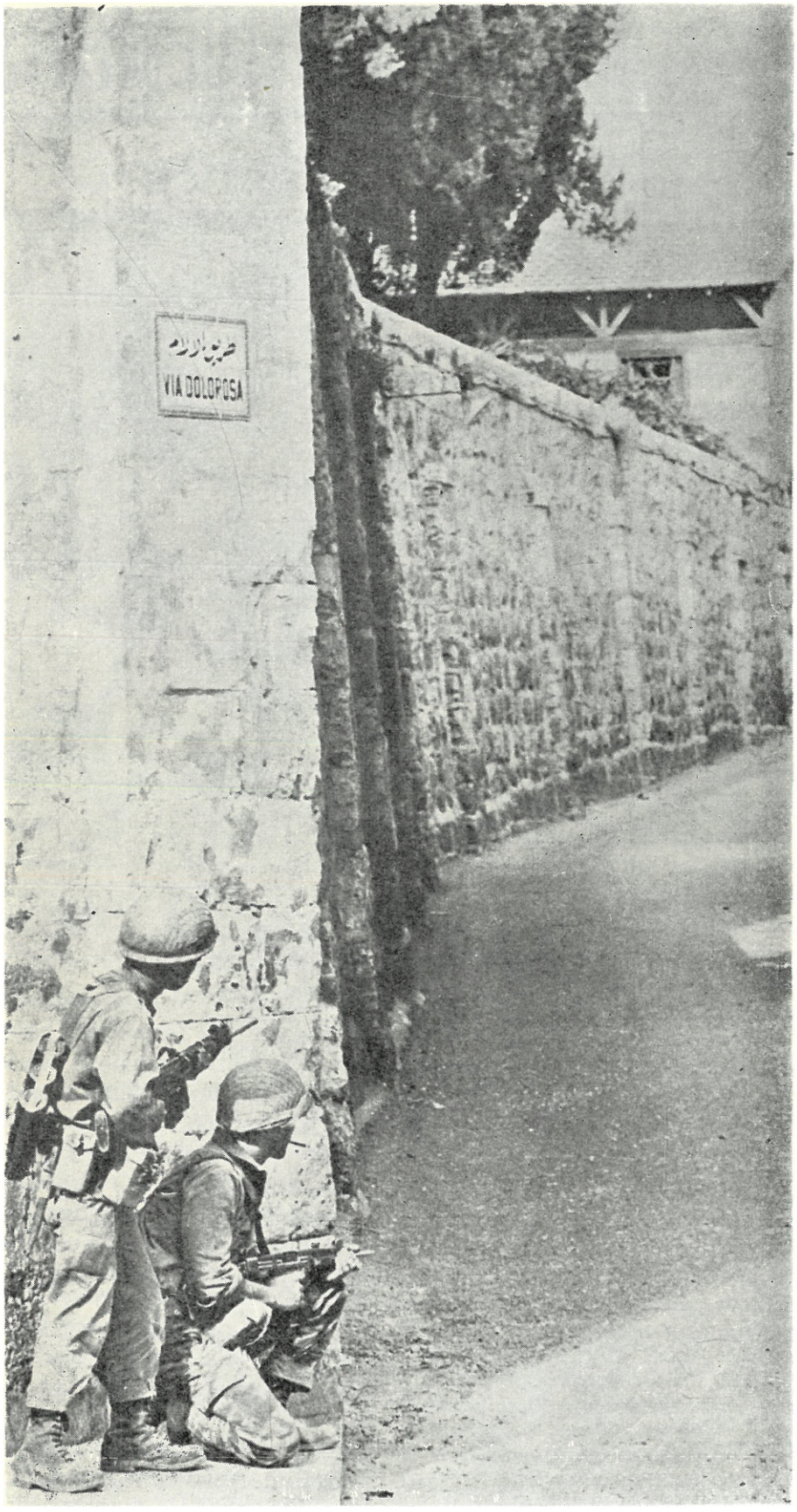
Mr. Lawrence Mitchelmore declared that the number of refugees was increasing from 200 to 300 people daily. Their condition was especially bad because of the hard weather this year. The number of new refugees is

from Jordan :	245,000.
Egypt :	38,000.
Syria :	116,000

(UNRWA REPORT, 1967)

The Arabs of Gaza were leaving at the rate of 500 a day. They continue to leave at the rate of 300 a day. So far 30,000 to 35,000 have left because of Israeli repressive measures.

(THE OBSERVER, 28 January 1968)



EASTER IN JERUSALEM

How to liberate a country

On October 1, 1967, General Moshe Dayan, Israeli Defense Minister declared :
« To achieve our aims we shall have to occupy an Arab capital.»

(Davar, *2 October 1967*)

The congress of Sephardic and Ashkemazi Jews (Oriental and European), meeting in Jerusalem recently, adopted the following resolutions :
1. To forbid all missionary activities other than Jewish.
2. To impose the learning of Hebrew and the Jewish religion on all schools.
3. To call for immediate and massive immigration into Israel.

(Reuter, A.F.P., *13 January 1968*, An-Anwar, *Beirut*)

Jordanian teachers went on strike after the occupation by Israel of the West Bank of the Jordan in June 1967, and issued a statement saying that : «Arab books banned by the Israeli authorities included books of Arabic language and Arabic literature as well as religious books... The aim of this is to prevent the teaching of Arabic and the Moslem religion.»

(***A.P. 7 September 1967***, Al-Nahar, *Beirut*).

The London newspaper, The Observer, **confirms this : « There has been a purge of Arabic textbooks.»**

(The Observer, *14 December 1967*)

After the theft of the tiara of the Virgin Mary soon after the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, the New York Times said : — « In the past, Jordan placed no guards inside the Church (of the Holy Sepulchre) to protect the treasures. It relied on the integrity of its people, and it has been proved right. The same cannot be said of the Israelis.»

(New York Times, *5 August 1968*)

How others see the situation

«The World Union of Jewish Students would like Israel to adopt a more democratic legislation» and warns it « against the distortion of values that Israel claims to uphold.»

(Le Monde, *20 March 1968*).

Secretary-General of the U. N. Mr. U. Thant distributed a document to all member states of the U.N. proving that the Wailing Wall belongs to the Moslems.

(*Reuter, A. P. 1 March* 1968, Al-Nahar)

«By refusing to extend the deadline so that all of the refugees who wish repatriation can be processed and returned to their homes, Israel in effect breaks a pledge she made last July 2. She thus further antagonizes the hostile Arabs and compromises friendly nations which have been working for a just peace.»

(New York Times, *27 August 1967*).

In a long article entitled «Israel's Bitter Fruit,» the two British writers M. Howard and R. Hunter say : «Israel faces a dilemma to which her military talents provide no solution and to which even nuclear weapons will be irrelevant.»

(The Sunday Times, *8 October 1967*)

About one hundred Israeli intellectuals, journalists, priests, professors, doctors and lawyers published a declaration condemning the violations of human rights taking place in the territories occupied by Israel, notably collective punishments, arbitrary curfews, and the dynamiting of houses.»

(Le Monde, *12 March 1968*)

Some Israeli attitudes

On 5 February 1968, Itzhak Rabin, Israeli ambassador in Washington, said: «We have not so far succeeded in changing the attitude of the Arabs towards us. None of the existing Arab regimes have fallen».

(L'Orient, 5 February 1968)

«The Israelis would find it very difficult to get on with the Arabs whom they regard as distinctly inferior». Some Israelis were even glad that « the war had solved the servant problem in Israel ».

(The Economist, 1 July 1967)

Interviewed by Henry Brandon about the expulsion of over a million Arabs by Israel, General Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defense in Israel, said: «Whether it is moral or not... one million Jews have replaced them».

(The Sunday Times, 10 September 1967).

Annexation Measures

«Israel considers the cease-fire lines to be its new frontiers».

(Le Monde, *23 February 1968*).

«Israel declares that customs posts between it and Jordan are abolished».

(Le Monde, *9 February 1968*).

Rabbi Frankel declared he was against withdrawal from occupied territories and asked that the supporters of « Greater Israel » should buy Arab lands for new Jewish immigrant settlements.

(Al-Hayat and Al-Nahar *22 February 1968 Reuter, AFP, AP*).

«The West Bank, the Gaza strip, the Sinai desert, and the Golan Heights will not henceforward be considered 'enemy territory' by Israel», declared a spokesman for the Israeli Ministry of the Interior.

(Le Monde, *2 March 1968*)

An Israeli spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior declared that: «The West Bank of the Jordan will in future be known as Judea in the south and Samaria in the north». (2 old Biblical Jewish names).

(New York Herald Tribune, *2 March 1963*

The Israeli Minister of Internal Affairs declared that «Israeli identity cards will be issued to all Arabs living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.»

(Jerusalem Post, *1 February 1968. AFP from Tel-Aviv*).

LIES

«As occupying powers go Israel is humane: it destroys houses or property, not people.»

(The Economist, *30 March 1968*).

But

«Sometimes the guards fire into the air to frighten the people. Others push the refugees. One prodded and struck an old woman as one strikes an animal when she was slow to move into the water.

(The Christian Science Monitor, *24 June 1967*).

Also

«I had my ups and downs during four years as a prisoner of war in Germany but the Germans never treated me as harshly as the Israelis are treating the Arabs of Gaza, the majority of whom are women and children.»

(*Michael Adams in* The Guardian, *26 January 1968*).

And

«One morning we found two men, unwounded. The officer ordered us to kill them and we shot them on the spot. Once we found two men wounded in their legs. We talked to them and took their papers. Then the officer ordered us to kill them.»

(From the statements of two Israeli soldiers published in the «Israeli Imperial News» ***March 1968***

"There is no resistance in the occupied territories under Israeli control"

(Aharon Remez, Israeli Ambassador, in a letter to the TIMES, 20 March 1968)

Moshe Dayan stated :

«The population of the West Bank refuses to cooperate with the terrorists, it is even hostile to them.

(LE MONDE, 20 March 1968)

Hebron - April 1968

On 1 April 1968, one Israeli soldier was shot in Hebron on the occupied West Bank of Jordan. A 24 hours curfew was imposed immediately, a house search was instituted and all the men in the town were arrested.

(LE MONDE, 2 April 1968)

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